



British Heart Foundation Cymru Petition

Response to Minister's Letter to the Petitions Committee 26 November 2019

10 December 2019

Dear Committee,

We are pleased that the Minister has set out the details for the Clean Air Plan which we note has been published today.

We will certainly take the time to respond to the consultation and hope that the final plan will enable the necessary, bold action which is required to improve public health from the unnecessary burden of air pollution.

However, we are disappointed at the timescales given for the introduction of a Clean Air Act. Whilst we understand the importance of consulting and ensuring effective and robust legislation is produced in a timetable which allows for scrutiny, the production of a White Paper before the 2021 Welsh elections is a blow to the many people who experience poor health due to air pollution.

Any number of things, including a change of Government could lead to the White Paper not continuing its progression into a Bill in the Sixth Assembly, and we feel that an Act is imperative to ensure the priority of resources to tackling such an important health crisis.

We would echo the calls of the Chair of the Cross Party Group on A Clean Air Act today in Plenary, who called for an extra sitting day for the rest of the Assembly Term to deliver this pivotal legislation.

We hope that the Committee also feels that the importance of delivering a Clean Air Act in Wales prior to Summer 2021 is a matter of great importance.

As ever, we are happy to answer any further questions the committee may have on this issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Emma Henwood'.

Emma Henwood

Policy and Public Affairs Manager
BHF Cymru